GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:89
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016
Farm Mechanisation
Lakhanpal Shri Raghav

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of farm mechanisation in the country;

(b) whether little or non-use of farm machines by the small and marginal farmers in ploughing, sowing, irrigating, thinning and pruning, weeding, harvesting, threshing and transporting the crops have resulted in huge wastage of human labour and low yields per capita labour force;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to tackle this problem and encourage the farmers to use more farm machines in agricultural activities?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 89 DUE FOR REPLY ON 22ND NOVEMBER, 2016.

(a): The total Farm Power availability of the country is steadily progressing as it was 0.293 kW/ha in 1971-72 , 1.17 kW/ha in 2001-02 and 1.84 kW/ha in 2012-13.

(b) & (c): Yes, Madam. Mechanisation of agriculture is an essential input in modern agriculture. It enhances productivity besides reducing human drudgery and cost of cultivation. Mechanisation also helps in improving utilization efficiency of other inputs, safety and comfort of the agricultural worker, improvements in the quality and value addition of the produce and also enabling the farmers to raise a second crop or multi crop making the Indian agriculture attractive and a way of life by becoming commercial instead of subsistence. The farm power availability and the average food grain yield have a direct relationship. Also, there has been close nexus between farm power availability and increased productivity.

Various studies of ICAR reveals that due to adoption of farm mechanization, while in 1971-72 about 60.8% farm power was coming from agricultural workers and draught animals, in 2012-13 the contribution of animate sources of power reduced to about 10.1%. On the other hand, the share of mechanical and electric sources of power increased from 6.8% to 45.8% and 14% to 26.8%, respectively during the last 41 years. Further by adoption of farm mechanization there will be
â€¢ Savings in seeds: 15-20%;
â€¢ Savings in fertilizers: 15-20%;
â€¢ Increase in cropping intensity: 5-20%;
â€¢ Savings in time: 20-30%;
â€¢ Reduction in manual labour: 20-30%;
â€¢ overall increase in farm productivity 10-15 %;
Contdâ€¦2/-

(d): Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is providing financial assistance to the farmers for purchase of agricultural equipments and machinery under various schemes viz. Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP) to encourage the farmers to use more farm machines in agricultural activities
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